

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Mali
Program Title:	Shared Governance Through Decentralization
Pillar:	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Strategic Objective:	688-008
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$500,000 CSH; \$2,646,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$200,000 CSH; \$3,350,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2002
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2012

Summary: Over the past 10 years the Government of Mali has focused on moving resources and responsibilities to the lowest governmental level, with mixed success. To assist with this effort, USAID/Mali's Democratic Governance program focuses on transparent local governance through citizen partnerships with elected officials, civil society and the private sector in 250 of 703 localities. Activities promote citizen participation, provide local governments with skills for transparent budget management, identify and help remove regulatory constraints hampering citizen control of health, education and other services, and empower rural women to participate fully in political life and public decision making in their communities.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$1,660,000 DA; \$500,000 CSH). Elected officials and public administrators at the local level are lacking in basic governance skills and do not have the capacity to fully assume their responsibilities as managers of municipal government. Therefore USAID will train and mentor 250 targeted local governments to improve their ability to manage resources and assume responsibilities for service delivery. In addition, USAID activities will focus on helping communities prepare five-year development plans for improved local health and education services, increased income through environmentally sound agricultural practices, peaceful resolution of conflict, increased knowledge of citizens' rights and responsibilities, and sanitation and waste management to improve community health. As a result, ordinary citizens will increasingly work with local governments, forming partnerships to improve their communities, and reaching up to 5.9 million Malian villagers. USAID will assist more than 5,000 locally elected officials, government accountants and treasury agents involved in local financial management in the 250 localities, mentoring them in the work place. As a result, local officials will transparently manage scarce resources for health, education and other services. Principal contractors: Management Systems International (prime); and CARE, Save the Children, and International Resources Group (subs).

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$200,000 DA). Although the legal code is in place, the Malian government has not yet transferred the necessary resources for municipal services to elected local government as central government authorities fear the loss of power and control. Unfortunately, national institutions representing local government in Mali lack the skills to rectify this situation. Therefore, USAID will target key institutional partners at the national level to build capacity, encourage dialogue and provide them with advocacy skills to address the transfer of authority and resources for health, education and potable water from the central state to local governments. Concurrently, the High Council of Local Governments and the Malian Association of Municipalities will seek to revise legislation or enact new laws as needed. Principal contractors and grantees: Management Systems International (prime); CARE, Save the Children, and International Resources Group (subs).

Strengthen Civil Society (\$786,000 DA). Women are underrepresented in public meetings and community decision making across Mali and are often afraid of speaking publicly. At the same time, women's participation ensures that communities direct scarce resources into essential community services. USAID will train 42 women councilors elected in 2004 in their roles and responsibilities as members of local government. USAID will develop income generating activities and increase access to micro-credit

enabling women's groups to support improved health and education services. Women's groups will be trained in leadership, public speaking, advocacy, conflict resolution, negotiation techniques, marketing and business skills. Civic education campaigns will be conducted via community radio stations. As a result of this activity, more elected women will effectively carry out their roles as councilors in local government and an increasing number of women will compete for leadership positions on local committees managing basic services like health, education, potable water and waste management. The distribution of 446 more radios will ensure 17,000 additional women in north and central Mali will have access to information on their rights. Principal contractors and grantees: to be determined.

FY 2006 Program: Support Democratic Local Government and Decentralization (\$2,258,000 DA; \$200,000 CSH). USAID aims to consolidate progress with 250 targeted local governments and expand to the fundamentalist-affected north, if practicable. Locally elected officials will improve conflict mitigation in their communities, increase natural resource management and foster sustainable economic growth. USAID plans to help improve local government accounting and tax collection systems, increase anti-corruption awareness and support resource mobilization through municipal bonds and public-private partnerships for capital investments. These activities will support local services such as health, education, potable water and waste management. Same implementers as FY 2005.

Strengthen Democratic National Governance Institutions (\$218,000 DA). USAID intends to support the High Council and Association of Municipalities to lobby national institutions for decentralization of budgets to the local level. Training in advocacy, the design and implementation of media campaigns, strategy development and negotiation skills will contribute to changes in the national legal framework, leading to improved local social services. Same implementers as FY 2005.

Strengthen Civil Society (\$874,000 DA). USAID plans to assist additional women's groups to develop income-generating activities and to access micro-credit. Elected women councilors will act as role models and trainers to encourage other women to take active public roles. Professional women's national organizations will receive training to advocate for public services. National NGOs will provide gender training to USAID partners, simultaneously building gender awareness and NGO capacity. If practicable, USAID would like to expand training to empower women in the north of Mali whose lives are increasingly affected by the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. Same implementers as FY 2005.

Performance and Results: USAID has established a solid foundation for the Democratic Governance program. Fifteen local NGO partners assessed 73 local governments, holding meetings with more than 4,000 key stakeholders, resulting in improved communication by newly elected officials and increased citizen understanding of the importance of tax payment to support health, education and other services, which will ultimately affect the lives of 2.2 million citizens. USAID surveyed more than 100 officials from 18 local governments on the relevance of existing financial management procedures, resulting in USAID-German collaborative development of simplified procedures, laying the foundation for local management of central funds for public services. A survey identified key national institutions capable of lobbying for local government improvements. Under a pilot program in 16 localities, 42 women councilors were elected, nearly doubling the previous number of elected women, 2.5 times the national average for female representation. USAID distributed 500 radio receivers to 400 women's listening groups, providing up to 20,000 women with access to information.

By the end of USAID's strategy, 188 local governments will design their development plans and budgets in a participatory manner, increasing local resources and managing them more efficiently. Health, education and other local services will improve through private sector and civil society alliances jointly carrying out development interventions and resolving local conflicts peacefully. It is anticipated that local elections will be more open, fair and transparent and the number of women holding and retaining positions in local government and civil society organizations will increase notably.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Mali

688-008 Shared Governance Through Decentralization	CSH	DA	ESF
Through September 30, 2003			
Obligations	0	6,328	300
Expenditures	0	36	0
Unliquidated	0	6,292	300
Fiscal Year 2004			
Obligations	300	3,966	0
Expenditures	0	4,838	235
Through September 30, 2004			
Obligations	300	10,294	300
Expenditures	0	4,874	235
Unliquidated	300	5,420	65
Prior Year Unobligated Funds			
Obligations	0	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA			
Obligations	500	2,646	0
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005			
Obligations	500	2,646	0
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA			
Obligations	200	3,350	0
Future Obligations	1,800	30,864	0
Est. Total Cost	2,800	47,154	300